

# EPA Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

## *Hartford, CT*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

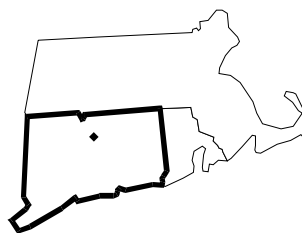
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA awarded the City of Hartford supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. During the 1980s and 1990s, the State of Connecticut experienced a major shift in military and industrial employment. The industrial exodus created a number of serious economic and social problems for Hartford. The number of jobs fell by 22 percent between 1989 and 1995. In 1995, 62 percent of the city's population of 125,100 was living below federal low- to moderate-income guidelines. Additionally, industrial migration resulted in a large number of abandoned sites and buildings with potential environmental hazards, e.g., ash from a time when ash was used as fill for properties and toxic substances from old plating and manufacturing processes. Presently, one-third of all land zoned for commercial or industrial uses in Hartford can be classified as brownfields.

In 1997, the City of Hartford became part of EPA's Brownfield Initiative. With funds received from EPA and leveraged from other entities, the city was able to identify over 30 properties of community concern, contract for 16 Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) and complete 12 of these ESA's,

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Hartford, Connecticut*

**Date of Announcement:**  
March 2000

**Amount:** \$150,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will target four sites for assessment and/or development of cleanup plans.

#### Contacts:

Office of Property Acquisition  
and Disposition  
City of Hartford  
(860) 543-8637

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 918-1209

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflid/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

and conduct 9 Phase II assessments. The city was also able to add value to its real estate, and improve its policies regarding the environmental conditions of abandoned and foreclosed properties.

## **OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

The City of Hartford will use the supplemental assistance to help reverse the economic decline of the past by preparing four sites for redevelopment and ultimately transferring these properties back to the city tax roles. Redevelopment of these properties will help cut down on development in rural areas and, therefore, help to preserve the identity and historic quality of Connecticut's small towns and villages.

To accomplish these objectives, the Pilot plans to:

- Conduct Phase II ESA's at three sites on the city's inventory—Locust Street, 393 Homestead Avenue, and 17-35 Bartholomew Avenue;
- Prepare cleanup plans for four sites on the city's inventory—Locust Street, 393 Homestead Avenue, 17-35 Bartholomew Avenue, and Sand Park; and
- Continue to work with the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Trinity College, Knox Park Foundation, Co-Opportunity, Concerned Citizens to Save the Sheldon Charter Oak Neighborhood, SAND, Parkville Business Association, and the NRZs through Hartford 2000.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*